**Traction Tariffs of State Electricity Boards for Railways**

*270. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Electricity Boards have refused to reduce traction tariffs for the railways ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether railways have explored other posibilities to obtain power; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Presently, Railway is purchasing traction power from 17 States Electricity Boards (SEBs) situated in 17 States and three other power companies. Out of these 17 States, State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) are functioning in 12 States. SERCs decide the revision of tariff periodically as and when the proposals are submitted by the State Electricity Boards/Distribution licensees after examining presentations from different consumers including Railways. During the current financial year, railways have been able to get reduction in tariff in 3 States, avoided increase in 2 States and limited the increase in 2 States by appropriate presentation. However, so far Railways have not fully succeeded in securing reasonable tariff as ordained under Section 29 of the ERC Act, 1998, in terms of which the tariff should progressively reflect the cost of supply of electricity. From 5 States, there has been no positive response in regard to reduction in traction tariff.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Railways have explored the possibility of availing direct power supply from Central Generating Agencies like NTPC.

Success have been achieved by availing direct power supply from NTPC for Ghaziabad-Kanpur section of Northern Railway since November, 2000. Proposals for availing power from NTPC at other places are under active consideration in consultation with Ministry of Power.

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*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.